

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Moab Big Game Guzzler Maintenance and Restoration

Proposal Number: 1381

DWR Region: Southeastern Region

Lead Agency: DWR

County: Grand - San Juan

Project Manager: Chris Wood

PM Phone: 4356133709

Regional Priority: High

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 7/1/2009

Project Location: Cisco Desert, Hatch Point and Potash Areas-Grand and northern San Juan County

Project Description: Perform needed restoration, maintenance and repairs on existing antelope and bighorn guzzlers in the Cisco Desert HMP area, Hatch Point HMP area, the Potash Confluence HMP area and other areas that support guzzlers.

Description of Problem/Need: As environmental conditions of our arid lands continue to be threatened by the encroachment of human development, many native animal species must seek alternative habitats due to fragmentation and destruction of their native ranges. Lack of suitable water and forage in these less than desirable habitats has led to the reduction in population and listing as endangered of several species. Pressures from urban expansion and fragmentation restrict many animals to regions that may offer less year-round water and concentrate populations on small habitat areas, which may also reduce forage availability and watershed values. Providing and maintaining current watering sites removes pressure and stress from populations and habitats as animals can utilize more areas. Maintaining these established water sights is important to maintaining healthy wildlife populations and vegetative conditions and maintaining the integrity of the watershed. Western state and federal agencies and local entities have used water developments as a tool to improve and secure wildlife habitat, forage and watershed integrity.

The Moab Field Office contains over 40 water developments (guzzlers) designed to support various game species including bighorn sheep, antelope, deer, elk and chukar. These developments also provide water for local non-games mammals, birds and reptiles. Most of these developments were installed over 20 years ago and are in need of continuous maintenance, repair and/or replacement. The federal and state government, taxpayers, local citizens and volunteers have invested considerable money, time and effort into the development of the guzzler over the years. Without needed repairs and restoration many of the guzzlers are at risk for complete failure and the original investment will be totally lost. Dedicated hunter programs fill empty tanks and provide minor maintenance and repair work to many of these guzzler. Due to the vast area and extensive repairs that have accumulated over the years, additional support is needed to facilitate major structural repairs, reinstallations and additional developments to ensure wildlife needs continue to be met.

During the summer of 2007, in coordination with the UDWR, 2 guzzlers were completely overhauled and many others had restoration work started. During the 2008 field season three new guzzlers were installed and several more antelope guzzlers were completely overhauled, along with the replacement and repair of several drinkers and sediment tanks that were failing. The Moab BLM has invested over \$35,000 to support labor, materials and services needed to fund this agreement with the DWR. The Moab BLM has also provided the two DWR seasonal employees access to a government vehicle, fuel, equipment and over \$15,000 in materials. The two DWR employees currently employed by this program have considerable knowledge and expertise in guzzler construction and maintenance and have made this program run smoothly and efficiently. The Moab BLM, with the support of the Price DWR Office, would like to insure that all wildlife guzzlers in the Moab Field Office are in good working order over the next two to three years. Once all guzzlers have been restored, these facilities should again provide wildlife with another twenty years of relatively low maintenance use. Currently an assistance agreement is in place between the Moab BLM and the Price DWR that facilitates the transfer of funds, utilization of a BLM vehicle and other BLM support services. This program is now out of funding and the BLM is seeking addition funding to ensure this valuable program continues.

Objectives: Maintain distribution and survival of bighorn sheep, pronghorn, deer, elk and chukars in the Cisco Desert, Hatch Point area and Potash area by ensuring established water developments remain in good working order.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: These areas support bighorn sheep and mule deer (Tier III), pronghorn antelope, elk, chukar and numerous other species of concern also inhabit the area including neo-tropical birds, bats, and raptors.

Many of the guzzlers are within Southeastern Region UPCD focus areas.

The proposed project will address the following management strategies, goals and objectives of the Division of Wildlife Resources most recent strategic management plan as outlined in the bighorn, antelope, deer and elk management plans for herd units (10c-Bookcliffs South, 13a La Sal, La Sal Mountains (includes the Potash bighorn herd) and 13c-La Sal, Dolores Triangle):

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES STATEWIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BIGHORN SHEEP

VI. STATEWIDE MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

B. Habitat Management Goal:

Provide good quality habitat for healthy populations of bighorn sheep.

Objective: Maintain or improve sufficient bighorn sheep habitat to allow herds to reach population objectives.

Strategies:

f. Improve and develop water sources to improve distribution and abundance of bighorns.

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES STATEWIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PRONGHORN (DRAFT)

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VI. STATEWIDE MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Population Management Goal:

Maintain viable populations of pronghorn in all suitable habitat within the state.

Objective 1: Maintain a minimum pronghorn population of 12,000 statewide with viable populations in all suitable habitats.

Strategies:

e. In conjunction with other land management agencies, develop and implement a maintenance schedule for existing water developments and develop new water sources as needed, taking into considerations potential negative impacts on other species.

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

STATEWIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MULE DEER AND ELK

Habitat Goal:

Conserve and improve mule deer/elk habitat throughout the state with emphasis on critical mule deer/elk ranges.

Habitat Objective 1.

Maintain mule deer/elk habitat throughout the state by protecting existing critical habitats and mitigating for losses due to human impacts.

Strategies:

b. Work with land management agencies and private landowners to recognize and properly manage critical mule deer/elk habitats, especially fawning/calving and wintering areas.

Potential Risks: Loss of wildlife habitats due to lack of free water and degradation of current habitat from concentrated use in areas that offer that minimal functioning water sources.

Proposed Methods: DWR and BLM employees and volunteers to perform needed construction and maintenance repairs.

Guzzlers will be visited at least twice each year, when and where conditions warrant. The purposes of these visits shall be to turn guzzlers on and off in the fall and spring, check available water supply, and remove tumbleweed accumulations in these fences in the spring after livestock have been removed thereby making them accessible to big game and other wildlife, in the fall upon arrival of livestock on the range, monitor wildlife use of the facilities, and conduct repairs and modifications to the facilities as needed.

Shapefile Name: HPD 2010\GIS Shape Files - Proposals\SER\1381.shp

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:

**Proposed
NEPA Action:**

**Proposed
Arch Action:**

☐ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☒ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: BLM and DWR will continue to do population counts within herd units. Individual guzzler will be monitored by DWR/BLM employees to assess species use. Motion sensing cameras may be used to record use of guzzlers. Guzzlers will be checked periodically. There are also DWR Range Trend and BLM allotment assessments done in the areas where some of the guzzlers exist.

**Grazing
Management:**

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer

Pronghorn

Elk

Bighorn Sheep

Chukar

LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
BLM	0
Total	0

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PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Unfunded Balance	\$30,000.00		\$0.00
BLM (co-op)	\$30,000.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$60,000.00		\$0.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Motor Pool	BLM truck, and fuel	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Materials and Supplies	lumber, tanks, hardware, pipe, equipment rental	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Personal Services	2 seasonal employees, 4months labor	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
	Totals	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00

Project Map:

Moab Field Office Guzzlers

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Moab Utah BLM Field Office

Utah and Ouray
Indian Reservation

Bookcliffs

Thompson
Springs

Crescent Jct.

Cisco

Arches
National Park

Moab

Manti La Sal
National Forest

Canyonlands
National Park

La Sal

-  Guzzler Locations
-  Moab FO Boundary
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Indian Reservation
-  US Forest Service
-  National Park Service
-  Private Lands
-  State Lands
-  Military Reservations

